

**ALEPHBEIT**  
*for*  
**BEGINNERS**  
*from PSALM 119*  
*by*  
**Lydia Hirn**

# ALEPH-BET FOR BEGINNERS FROM PSALM 119

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Scripture taken from the World English Bible. Public Domain.  
The sacred name of God has been changed from Yahweh to Jehovah in the text of this book.

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וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו מִי שָׂם פֶּה לָאָדָם אוֹ  
מִי־יִשּׁוּם אֲלֵם אוֹ חֵרֶשׁ אוֹ פֶקֶח אוֹ עִוֵּר הֲלֹא  
אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה׃  
וְעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאֲנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה עִם־פִּיךָ וְהוֹרִיתִיךָ  
אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבָּר׃

Yehovah said to him, "Who made man's mouth?  
Or who makes one mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind?  
Isn't it I, Yehovah? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth,  
and teach you what you shall speak" (Exodus 4:11-12).

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# Note to the Parent

## From the Author

Shalom,

My name is Lydia Hirn. I can probably guess the reason why you purchased this book is because you want to learn Hebrew. THAT'S AWESOME! I am so excited for you.

You are taking a step in the right direction.

The reason I am writing this curriculum is to give people a dependable resource to learn the Hebrew language.

It all started a few years ago, when I was determined to learn Hebrew on my own.

I used the internet, many books, and even traveled to Israel to experience more of the language there.

Through many different materials, I discovered that not all the information was the same.

I became overwhelmed by all the different resources and how they all had different information about the language.

All this to say, I am here for YOU. I am developing a reliable resource for your children and YOU to be able to learn Modern and Biblical Hebrew in a fun, easy, and quick way.

This book is designed for American English speakers and for those around the kindergarten level/age. Anyone can use this book though, as it is designed for beginners in the Hebrew language and gives you a foundation of the Hebrew Alephbeit. By the end of this book, your children will be able to recognize, pronounce, and understand the meaning of all the letters of the Hebrew Alephbeit. They will also be able to read and write in Hebrew and have an excellent vocabulary of Modern Hebrew words.

Because of how much is included in each lesson, I recommended doing one lesson per week, but you do whatever is best for YOU.

Just remember when learning a language: Consistency is **key**.

Learning and practicing Hebrew **every day** will give you the best results when using this curriculum.

I will be using the name *Yehovah* when referring to God in this book. It is the name of our Father, so I ask that you respect this book because it contains His name.

I will also be using the name *Yeshua* in place of the name *Jesus*, because Yeshua is His name in Hebrew.

Please feel free to visit my website, [www.LydiaLuLanguages.com](http://www.LydiaLuLanguages.com). There will be videos, audios, blogs and more on the website where you will be able to access further learning materials for the Hebrew language. The materials are for all ages/levels in the Hebrew language. You will also be able to contact me over there if you have any questions about this curriculum, the Hebrew language, or more about me. I will be very delighted to answer any of your questions you may have.

I am so thankful you will be learning with me.

I hope that through these books I may share with you my heart for the Hebrew language.

Let's get learning!

*~Lydia Hirn*

(Lydia Lu Languages)

# Introduction to the Hebrew Language

## *Fun Facts*

- Hebrew is the official language of the Land of Israel.
- Hebrew is part of the Semitic language families and is considered very closely related to Arabic and Aramaic.
- Most Hebrew words are based on a three-letter (and sometimes four-letter) root word, but many new non-Hebrew words have entered the language in the last century.
- The Hebrew Alephbeit consists of 22 letters. 5 of the letters have a different form when they appear at the end of a word. Some of the letters have different sounds when a dot (*dagesh*) is in the middle of it. A handful of Hebrew letters also serve as prefixes at the beginning of some words in Hebrew.
- All Hebrew letters have numerical value, represent a picture, and have a special meaning.
- Originally, all the letters were pictures, so for me to teach you about the letter meaning I will teach you some Ancient Hebrew as well. (Ancient Hebrew is also known as Paleo Hebrew.)
- Hebrew was originally written without vowels. They were added later and now are mostly found in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish literature. Vowels are not commonly used today.
- A vowel in Hebrew is called a *Nikud* (/Ni-kooh-d/). Hebrew vowels are **NOT** letters, but they are dots and markings written around the letters. *Nikudot* (plural) literally translates to “dotting” or “pointing.” (We will discuss both further in the next book.)
- Many Hebrew words can have several different meanings depending on the context in which they are being used. Meanings are often implied by context when there are no vowel markings.
- Hebrew is read and written from left to right (the opposite of English).
- Hebrew is considered a holy language. It is believed to be the language Yehovah and Adam originally spoke between each other in the Garden of Eden. It has been revived though, and what we speak today is believed to be different than what they originally spoke, because Hebrew is always changing.

## Modern Vs. Biblical Hebrew

I will be teaching both Modern and Biblical Hebrew in this book. I will explain the differences below. They are somewhat similar, and you can know one without knowing the other. Learning Modern can help you learn Biblical, and vice versa. Some words may also be different along with their verb tenses.

### *Modern Hebrew*

Modern Hebrew does not use vowels, and its verb tenses are different than Biblical Hebrew. It is simpler and easier to learn because it has fewer rules and lacks vowels. Modern Hebrew uses words not found in Biblical Hebrew, like the word for *telephone*, which is a word that was created later because telephones didn't exist in earlier times. Modern Hebrew also has adopted slang terms and idioms from Arabic and other languages it has mixed with. Modern Hebrew is believed to be Sephardi Hebrew pronunciation and is what is spoken today.

### *Biblical Hebrew*

Biblical Hebrew has vowels, markings and more rules. It has more pronunciation, and some letters have different sounds, while in Modern Hebrew more letters share the same sound. Biblical Hebrew is what most of the Scriptures were originally written in. It is also found in many Jewish books today, and it is what we use when we study our Hebrew Scriptures.

## Revival of the Hebrew Language (Jewish Diaspora)

It is believed that Hebrew was the language that was originally spoken by all of the world. Yehovah confused the languages at the Tower of Babel, making multiple languages and nations. However, one group kept Hebrew. From the time of Abraham and the Patriarchs, the Israelites were the speakers of Hebrew. Other similar languages broke off Hebrew, and they are called Semitic languages. Semitic languages are assumed to have been spoken by the descendants of Noah's son Shem. They included languages such as Akkadian, Canaanite, and Phoenician.

As the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms, both continued to speak Hebrew. Around 722 B.C. the Northern Kingdom was carried away by Assyria and interspersed among the nations. The Southern tribes were taken away during the Babylonian captivity between 597 B.C. and 586 B.C., the date when the King of Babylon destroyed the first temple and drove out the Jews. This is often called the first Jewish Diaspora or dispersion. Seventy years later Cyrus, the Persian king, allowed the Jews to come back into the Land. Over the next 500 years, the Hebrew people continued to be subjugated by various empires including the Persians, the Greeks, and eventually the Romans.

Sometime between A.D. 66-70, the Jews rebelled against the Roman Empire to free themselves from the Romans and their pagan culture. The Roman army crushed the rebellion, killing approximately 1.5 million Jews. They plundered the city of Jerusalem, destroyed the second temple, and scattered the Jews all throughout the Roman empire. While some Jews stayed in the land at this time, most of them were dispersed.

Around A.D. 132, a man named Simon Bar Kochba led a rebellion against Hadrian, the Roman Emperor. After some years of war, Hadrian eventually put down the Jewish revolts and destroyed their cities, causing a large group of refugees to be without homes. The aftermath of the revolts caused a further spread of the Jewish population, as many emigrated, were sold into slavery, or were taken to Rome. Furthermore, it became illegal for a Jew to be found in Jerusalem, which was renamed Aelia Capitolina or Hadrian's capital for the god Jupiter.

As a result of the dispersion, Jewish communities were formed and established in countries all over the world. These two events greatly advanced the numbers and places of the dispersion. Many centuries before the second temple was destroyed, the Jews had already begun to disperse themselves in other countries. Jewish communities existed in many places, but at this time dispersion was more severe.

It is believed by many that the Hebrew language got mixed in with other languages, because the Jews adopted the languages of the places to which they were dispersed. They continued to adopt the various influences on Hebrew, and because of this, there are different ways of pronouncing the Hebrew language today.

During this time, some say that the Hebrew language died, but there is evidence that the impoverished Jews who remained in the Land continued to speak Hebrew during the time of the Diaspora. Worldwide, the Hebrew language ceased to be spoken as a primary language in day-to-day life. Hebrew was still taught in the synagogues and *yeshivas* (religious schools), and it was found in much Jewish literature during this time.

During the nineteenth century, a man named Eleazar Ben Yehuda, with help from others, took Jewish literature, the Hebrew Bible, and many different scripts, and “revived” the Hebrew language. He edited the language and created new words, because many of the words we use today would not have been needed in ancient Hebrew. As the language started to revive, it became common usage in schools, newspapers, and public life. He also created the Modern Hebrew dictionary.

This is the Modern Hebrew we speak today. It is different from what was spoken in ancient times, because the languages the Jews adopted during the Dispersion had an influence on how Hebrew is spoken today.

Hebrew didn’t die, but it changed.



# Lesson Layout: What To Do Each Week/Lesson

Each lesson contains:

- A Coloring/drawing page.
- Information about the letter.
- Modern Hebrew flashcard words.
- Reading and discussion of a portion of Scripture from Psalm 119.
- Learning and practicing how to write the letter.
- Copying a verse in the Hebrew Scripture text.
- Fun flashcard word activities.

The following is one way I recommend doing each lesson. By spreading out the lesson and completing two pages of the book a day, you will be able to practice the language daily. However, do what is best for you! This is just a recommendation.

**Day One:** Have your child draw a picture of what the letter represents, making the drawing on top of the letter. If your child is unable to do this, that's okay! Have them color the letter instead. Allow your child to use their creativity and add pretty background things around the letter if they desire. While they are drawing/coloring, read to them all the information about the letter on the next page.

Then prepare the flashcards by ripping out the page for the week, cutting and laminating it (if desired). Read out loud together the flashcards.

**Day Two:** Read the Psalm 119 passage and discuss it with your student(s). Ponder and think about this passage together. What does it say and mean? How can we apply it to our lives?

Follow the directions on the next page to complete each exercise. Highlight the letter in the Scripture passage and practice writing the Hebrew letter. Finish by reading out loud each of your flashcards for this lesson.

**Day Three:** Trace and write the first verse of the Scripture passage. If there is more room on the page after writing the verse in Hebrew once, encourage your child to write it again. Fill up the page!

Next complete the first page of the Flashcard Word Fun exercise. If your child struggles to trace, have him color in the letters instead.

**Day Four:** Read and complete the remaining two pages of Flashcard Word Fun exercises.

**Day Five:** Today is flashcard day! Practice your flashcards throughout the day. Review ALL the flashcards you've learned so far (from previous lessons). Can you use any of these words while speaking out loud to each other?

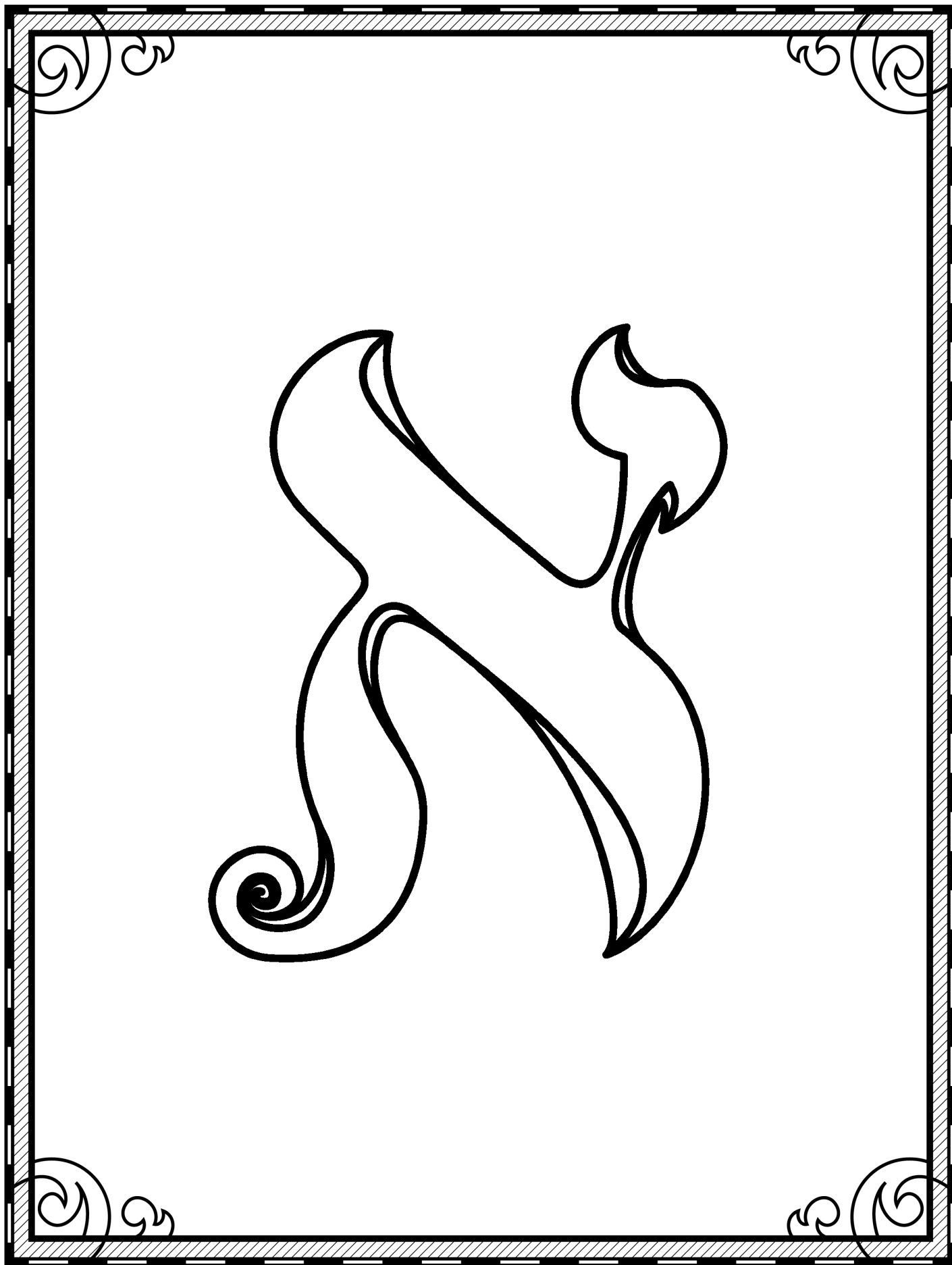
**Note:** Day five does not include any pages to complete in the book. If you fell behind in the lesson during the week, use this day to catch up. If you have completed all of the pages for the lesson, use today to really focus on and learn the flashcards. Can you think of any games you can play with your flashcards?

## Notes About the Lessons

- Whenever you see an underlined ch, it makes the 'ch' sound like in the word Bach. It does NOT make the *ch* sound as in the word *chocolate*, which does not exist in Hebrew.
- Modern Hebrew does not have any vowels or dots (*dagesh*) in the middle of the letters to affect their sounds, but because you are a beginner, I will be leaving the dots in certain letters to help you learn modern words. (They will be taken out in further books.)
- There will be a final lesson for your child to complete at the end of all the lessons, in order to receive the certificate in the back of this book. The review lesson will assure that your child has retained what the book has taught.
- There will be many black arrows throughout this book. They are there to remind you what direction to write and read Hebrew.
- If you are an advanced or older student doing this book, I encouraged you to think of ways to make the lessons more challenging for your level of learning.

Here are some ways you can do that:

- Make as many words and pretty designs as possible on your coloring pages. Be intricate and thoughtful, spending extra time on the words to commit them to memory. Do this after you draw the picture of what the letter represents on top of the letter. While coloring/drawing, say out loud all the things the letter represents. This will help you grasp the meaning of the letter.
- Write the flashcard words you learn each lesson out in a notebook. Write them out as many times as you can while only filling half a page. Use the next half of the page to draw a picture of the word's meaning (e.g. for the word Beit, draw a house or a tent).  
Keep this notebook; it will be your Hebrew notebook.
- Write out all eight verses from the Scripture passage each lesson, both in Hebrew and in English.  
Use your Hebrew notebook to write them in. If that is too much, write out only the Hebrew verses.



# Lesson Aleph



## About the Letter

Aleph (*pronounced "ah-lef"*) is the father of the Hebrew Alephbeit, as it is the first letter.

The picture behind the shape of Aleph is believed to be an ox head or bull.

Think about an ox. What kind of qualities does an ox have? It is a strong and dependable animal, able to carry heavy loads!

The Aleph is also a picture of our Father, Yehovah. Just like an ox, Yehovah is our dependable Father. He is strong (like an ox), reliable, and able to carry us when we are weak. He is our strength and our Master.

Aleph can also represent *strength, unity, first, master, power and leader*.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

The word "God" in this verse is *Elohim* in Hebrew. It shows us how the Aleph can be a picture of our God because it is the first letter of one of His names, meaning "God of gods." It shows us that Yehovah is number one!

## Numerical Value

Aleph represents the numbers 1 and 1,000 in the Hebrew numerical value system.

It reminds me of this Scripture verse: "Hear, Israel: Yehovah is our God. Yehovah is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4).

And therefore, it shows us that just as Aleph is one, our God Yehovah is also one. He is the one true and only God.



## Sound

Aleph is a silent letter. It does not have a sound by itself, unless a vowel (*nikud* in Hebrew) is given to it.

When Aleph is given a vowel, it acts as a "carrier," as it carries the vowel it is given and only makes the vowel sound.

In order to make a sound, it needs a vowel. When it isn't carrying a vowel, Aleph is silent.

## Flashcard Words

Each lesson, you will be given a few words beginning with the letter you just learned. There are flashcards at the back of this book you may use (or you may create your own). Rip out, cut out, and laminate all the flashcards starting with the letter Aleph.

This will be your first Hebrew flashcard set. Read each of these words out loud. The pronunciation is right next to the Hebrew word.

**Remember, Hebrew is read from right to left.**

(The ch sound in these words makes the same sound as in the word Bach.)

אבא	Ah-ba	<i>Dad, Father</i>
אמא	Ee-ma	<i>Mom, Mother</i>
אח	A <u>ch</u>	<i>Brother</i>
אחות	Ah- <u>ch</u> ot	<i>Sister</i>
אני	Ah-nee	<i>I</i>
אנחנו	Ah-nach-noo	<i>We</i>

## Aleph

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to Yehovah's law.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his statutes,  
who seek him with their whole heart.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, they do nothing wrong.  
They walk in his ways.

<sup>4</sup> You have commanded your precepts,  
that we should fully obey them.

<sup>5</sup> Oh that my ways were steadfast  
to obey your statutes!

<sup>6</sup> Then I wouldn't be disappointed,  
when I consider all of your commandments.

<sup>7</sup> I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart,  
when I learn your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup> I will observe your statutes.  
Don't utterly forsake me.

<sup>1</sup> אֲשֶׁר־יְמֵי־דָרְךָ  
הָהֵלָלִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:

<sup>2</sup> אֲשֶׁר־נִצְרִי עֲדֹתָיו  
בְּכָל־לֵב יְדַרְשׁוּהוּ:

<sup>3</sup> אֵיךְ לֹא־פָעַלְנוּ עוֹלָה  
בְּדַרְכֵינוּ הֵלְכוּ:

<sup>4</sup> אֲתָתָה צִוִּיתָהּ בְּקֻדֶּיךָ  
לְשֹׁמֵר מְאֹד:

<sup>5</sup> אֲחֵלִי יִכְנוּ דַרְכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר  
חֻקֶּיךָ:

<sup>6</sup> אֲזִי לֹא־אֲבֹשׁ בְּהִבִּטִּי  
אֶל־כָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ:

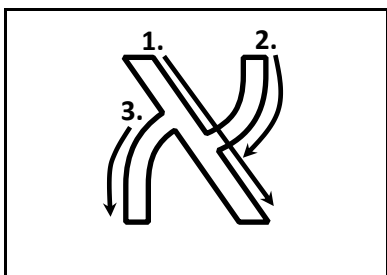
<sup>7</sup> אֲוֹדֶךָ בְּיֶשֶׁר לֵב  
בְּלִמּוֹדִי מִשְׁפָּטִי צְדָקָתְךָ:

<sup>8</sup> אֶת־חֻקֶּיךָ אֲשֹׁמֵר  
אֶל־תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי עַד־מְאֹד:

## Read and complete each exercise.

1. Read the English text of Psalm 119 to your student(s) and discuss.
2. With a light-colored crayon or pencil, highlight each **א** in the Scripture passage.
3. Trace and write the letter Aleph. Aleph is silent unless it is carrying a vowel. You will be learning to write the block print form of each of the letters.

How to write an Aleph:



(Remember, Hebrew is written from right to left.)



Trace over the first verse of the Scripture passage,  
then write it yourself.



אשרי תמימי-דרך

ההלכים בתורת

יהוה.

# Flashcard Word Fun

1. Read through all your flashcards in your flashcard set, pronouncing the Hebrew words out loud.

**Remember,** Hebrew is read and written from **right to left**.

2. Circle the correct Hebrew word that goes with each picture.



אנחנו אמא



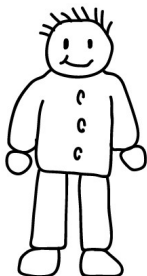
אבא אח



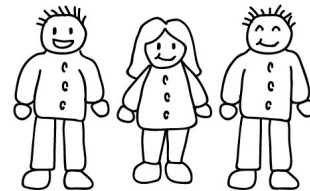
אחות אבא



אני אח



אחות אני

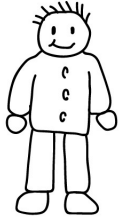


אנחנו אמא

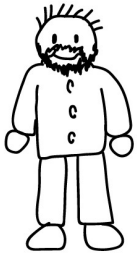


# Flashcard Word Fun

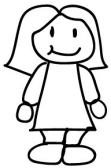
3. Draw a line from the Hebrew word to the correct picture.



אנחנו



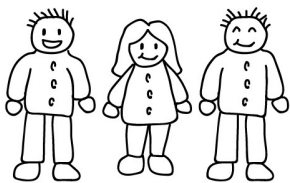
אחות



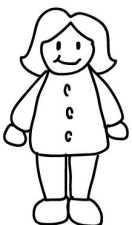
אני



אמא



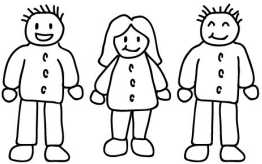

אח



אבא

# Flashcard Word Fun

4. Write each of the flashcard words you've learned in this lesson next to the picture it belongs to.

	 אֲנַחְנוּ
